

Programs & Services

*Working to Improve the Quality of Life
for the People of North Dakota*





The North Dakota Department of Commerce is the lead agency charged by the Governor and Legislature with growing our state and improving the quality of life for our people. Commerce currently provides over 60 programs and services to support business, workforce and community development in partnership with local leaders.

COMMERCE LEAD INITIATIVES

EmPower North Dakota – A governor-appointed, 14-member commission, which includes representatives from all sectors of the energy industry, charged with recommending comprehensive policies to enhance the state's energy industry.

Renewable Energy Council – Provides funding for research, development, marketing and education to foster development of renewable energy including: wind, biofuels, advanced biofuels, biomaterials, biomass, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal and hydrogen.

Governor's Workforce Summit – A biennial forum to discuss current workforce issues and present practical, demand-driven solutions for workforce challenges.

North Dakota Talent Initiative – Coordinates efforts to expand, attract and retain individuals, as well as help them gain the skills needed to fill available job opportunities.

Governor's Rural Community Summit – A biennial forum for North Dakota leaders to explore the factors for success in other communities and learn how to impact growth in their respective areas.

2020 and Beyond Initiative – Works in partnership with the ND Economic Development Foundation and the ND Chamber of Commerce gathering information and making recommendations concerning the future of North Dakota in areas such as economic development, workforce development, the state's tax and regulatory environment, and higher education.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE — NDBusiness.com

Business Hotline – Offers assistance to both existing and potential businesses (1-866-4DAKOTA).

www.NDBusiness.com – Online source of comprehensive current North Dakota business data for marketing and strengthening business-to-business relationships.

Business Development – Partners with communities on business development strategies to generate start-ups, expansions and new companies locating in North Dakota.

Business Retention and Expansion – Supports local efforts to retain and expand North Dakota's existing companies and facilitates new contract manufacturing relationships between in-state and out-of-state companies.

Research – Provides business information and market research including industry background, company background and demographics, as well as managing databases related to companies, communities and available buildings.

New Venture Capital Program – Provides loan or equity funding for early stage, North Dakota-based companies which can show clear proof of completed product development and market acceptance as evidenced by growing sales.

Incentive Certifications – Manage certification process for many of the available state incentives including microbusiness, research & development company, seed capital investment tax credit, agricultural business investment tax credit, angel fund investment tax credit, automation tax credit, and entrepreneurial center certification.

North Dakota Development Fund – Provides flexible gap financing through debt and equity investments for new or expanding North Dakota primary sector businesses and others through a variety of financing programs:

- Rural Revolving Loan
- Rural Incentive Growth Program
- Licensed Child Care Provider Loan Program
- Small Business Technology Investment Program
- New Venture Capital Program
- Entrepreneur Loan Program
- Entrepreneur Center Loan Program

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Centers of Research Excellence – Invests in research, development, demonstration and commercialization projects at higher education facilities in partnership with the private sector to stimulate new business and job opportunities.

Innovate ND – Provides online entrepreneur education, coaching and mentoring from proven business owners to help entrepreneurs successfully launch new businesses.





GRANT PROGRAMS

Economic Development & Finance

Agriculture Products Utilization Commission (APUC) – Supports new and expanded uses of North Dakota's agricultural products.

Partners in Marketing – Provides grants of up to \$25,000 per biennium to local professional economic development organizations for marketing activities that promote primary sector business or workforce attraction, retention or expansion.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Centers of Research Excellence Grants – Provides grants to North Dakota's research universities for collaboration with private industry on research, development, demonstration and commercialization of technology.

Technology-Based Entrepreneurship Grant Program – Provides grants to encourage the development of technology-based entrepreneurship within the state.

Workforce Development

Workforce Enhancement Grants – Provides funding for two-year colleges to develop or expand training programs that address the needs of business and industry in North Dakota. The grants require a dollar-for-dollar match from industry.

Operation Intern – Provides matching funds to help expand the number of internship, work experience and apprenticeship positions with North Dakota employers.

Community Services

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – Provides financial assistance to eligible units of local government to support housing, public facilities and economic development.

Child Care Provider Matching Grants – Provides matching grants to early childhood facilities for technical assistance and small infrastructure or equipment purchases.

Biofuel Blender Pump Grant Program – Provides cost-share grants of up to \$5,000 per pump to motor fuel retailers for the installation of biofuel blender pumps and up to \$14,000 per location for the installation of associated equipment at retail locations.

Tourism

Tourism Infrastructure Grants – Provides grants for local non-profit organizations to fund infrastructure and building needs at new or expanding tourist and recreational facilities.

Tourism Matching Grants – Provides grants for tourism and community partners to expand their marketing or event promotions.

Tourism Marketing Grant – Provides grants for individual businesses, communities and tourism marketing organizations wanting to promote North Dakota tourism-related programs or projects.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — NDCommunityServices.com

Americans with Disabilities Act – Provides technical assistance to private and public agencies to help them meet requirements and provisions of the ADA.

Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – Promotes energy efficiency in both the public and private sector and facilitates the development and use of renewable energy sources within the state.

Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) – Provides assistance through Community Action Agencies to implement locally designed anti-poverty programs including emergency assistance, money management, housing counseling, self-sufficiency services, case management, and outreach and referral services to low-income individuals and families.

Consolidated Plan – Contains a description of the state housing and community development needs and resources, establishes strategies, and prioritizes the use of housing and community development dollars statewide.

Emergency Shelter Grants Program – Provides federal financial assistance to facilities and programs within North Dakota that provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals.

HOME Program – Creates partnerships between government and the private sector to support affordable housing for low-income individuals.

Manufactured Home Installation Program – Manages the inspection of new manufactured homes installed in North Dakota.

Building Codes – Updates and amends the North Dakota State Building Code.

Weatherization Assistance – Increases the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income individuals to lower their energy expenditures and improve their health and safety.

Individual Developer Accounts – Offers matching funds to participating Community Action Agencies to eligible individual development accounts.

Modular Buildings: Third-Party Inspection – Manages inspection for modular residences.

Renaissance Zone – Encourages reinvestment and redevelopment of downtown areas to attract new businesses and improve housing.



TOURISM — NDTourism.com

Advertising and Marketing – Promotes North Dakota and its Legendary brand through development and distribution of promotional materials, e-marketing, mixed media advertising involving print, radio, TV, online, direct mail and display. Cooperative advertising opportunities are also developed and distributed with state partners.

Culture and Heritage Marketing – Highlights and celebrates the state's regional differences, unique history, ethnic cultures and more, along with the promotion of the Lewis & Clark Trail.

Group Travel – Provides assistance for groups, preparing them for their adventure through North Dakota with planning, expanding or building tours within the state.

International Travel – Promotes the state in the Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, as well as Germany and Australia.

Education Vacations – Caters to groups or individuals looking to combine fun and learning into their customized North Dakota vacation.

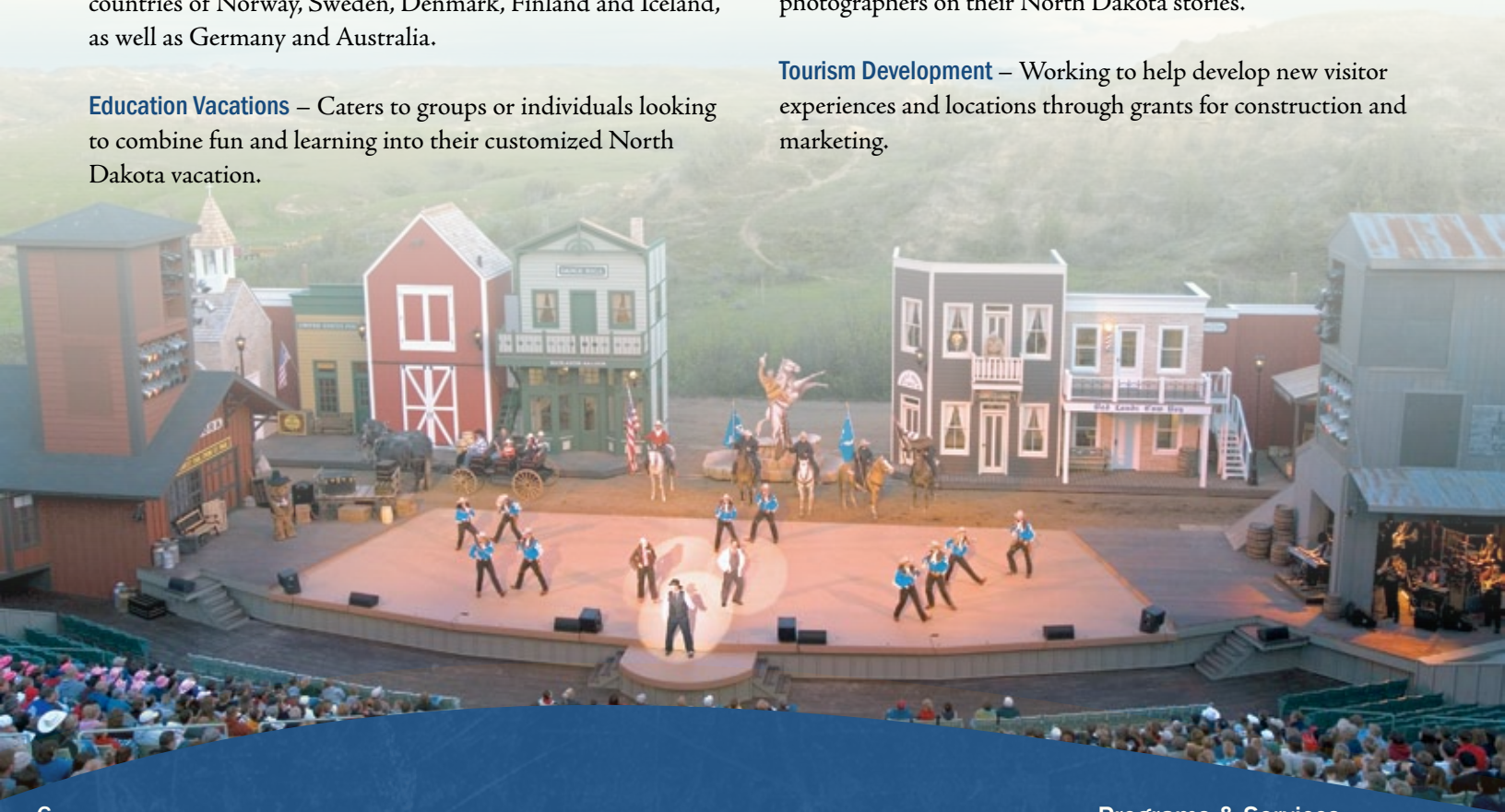
AgriTourism – Provides assistance in turning farms, ranches and gardens into tourism destinations.

Literature Distribution – Distributes brochures, guides, maps and more through tourism industry partners at highway rest areas and via the website.

Outdoor Promotions – Promotes the state's outdoor activities and adventures through representation at sport shows, working with adventure writers and through niche publication advertising.

Public and Media Relations – Provides complete information of what North Dakota offers to the media and visitors through news releases, familiarization tours and online. Proactively encourages feature stories and works with writers and photographers on their North Dakota stories.

Tourism Development – Working to help develop new visitor experiences and locations through grants for construction and marketing.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — NDWorkforce.com

AmeriCorps – Engages volunteers in direct service to help communities address unmet needs in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment.

Community Labor Availability Studies – Provides matching funds to communities who participate in standardized Community Labor Availability Studies, which identify core data elements.

Electronic Portfolio Pilot Project – Will allow students to create their own electronic portfolio to showcase their accomplishments.

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives – Connects faith-based and community organizations with resources to help address critical local community service gaps in areas such as workforce, education, public safety, health and the environment.

Operation Intern – Provides matching funds to help expand the number of internship, work experience and apprenticeship positions with North Dakota employers.

Workforce Intelligence Council – Improves workforce intelligence coordination.

Youth Office – Designed to be a liaison for partners to collaborate and communicate with youth by making it easy for students, parents and educators to quickly identify opportunities focused on keeping youth in North Dakota.

AMBASSADORS and EXPERIENCE ND — ExperienceND.com

Ambassadors Program – Arms North Dakota's volunteer sales force with positive information about the state.

Experience ND – Connects people wishing to make North Dakota their home with help finding a job, networking and securing vital relocation information about schools, housing, and other community information necessary for smooth transitions.

Image Enhancement – Enhances the state's image through promotion and marketing efforts that focus on North Dakota as a great place to live, work, play and be in business.

PARTNER PROGRAMS

American Indian Business Development Office – Connects American Indian business owners with more avenues to grow their businesses and create new jobs on and off various reservations located throughout North Dakota.
www.AmericanIndianBusiness.com

Center for Technology and Business – Partners with individuals, businesses, communities, local and state agencies, job development authorities and nonprofit organizations to provide simplified technology curriculum, training and services.
www.TrainND.com

Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership – Provides manufacturers quick, cost-effective solutions to challenges.
www.DakotaMEP.com

North Dakota Rural Development Council – Furthers collaboration and partnerships among federal, state, local and community based organizations to ensure that benefits from state and federal programs are equally available to rural communities.
www.NDRDC.org

North Dakota Trade Office – Identifies export markets best suited for the products and services of North Dakota companies by conducting international market research and collaborating with state universities, state and federal government agencies and private export service professionals.
www.NDTO.com

Small Business Development Centers – Provides high-quality assistance to help individuals start, manage, and grow their businesses resulting in job creation, retention and economic wealth.
www.NDSBDC.org



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